No. 152

RALEIGH. N. C.

FEBRUARY 8. 1954

PRICES RECEIVED FOR MOST PRODUCTS UP

Meat Animals Index Up 25 Points

Average prices received by North Carolina farmers for most commodities they sell increased slightly during the month ended January 15, 1954. The poultry, tobacco and dairy indexes were the only ones below the December 15 level. The table below gives the various indexes for January as well as comparisons with last month and previous years.

N. C. & U. S. INDEX NUMBERS

COMMODITY	DEC. 15 1953	JAN. 15 1954	JAN. 15 1953	JAN. 15 1952	JAN. 15 1951
	N.	. C. IN	IDEX NU	ABERS	
ALL FARM					
PRODUCTS	255	256	266	302	308
COTTON SEED	249	252	257	319	346
GRAINS	176	182	192	199	192
TOBACCO <u>a</u> /	295	277	292	318	
MEAT ANIMALS	285	3.10	329	418	411
POULTRY	270	267	267	26 5	271
DAIRY PRODUCTS.	248	243	253	247	242
MISCELLANEOUS	255	260	302	283	235
REC'D TO PAIDD/	92	91	94	105	113
	U.	S. 1N	IDEX NUM	BERS	
PRICES RECEIVED	2540/	259	268 <u>c</u> /	300	300
INT. & TAXES	278	282	284	287	272
RATIO OF PRICES REC'D TO PAID	91	92	94	104	111

a/ Types 11,12 & 13.

U. S. Prices Received Up 5 Points

Higher prices for hogs, beef cattle, and commercial vegetables, together with small increases for lambs, chickens, wheat, and hay during the month ended January 15, 1954 raised the Index of Prices Received by Farmers 5 points (2 percent) above the revised December level. The January index at 259 percent of its 1910-14 average was 9 points (3 percent) below the 268 of a year earlier.

During the same period -- December 15, 1953 to January 15, 1954 -- the Parity Index (Prices Paid for Commodities, Interest, Taxes, and Wage Rates) rose 4 points (one percent) to 282 percent of the 1910-14 average. This was primarily the result of increases in the prices paid for feeder livestock and increases in the indexes of farm wage rates, interest on farm mortgage indebtedness, and taxes on farm real estate. The parity index is now 2 points lower than a year ago.

The Parity Ratio on January 15 was 92 percent, a rise of 1 point from the mid-December level but 2 points lower than January 1953.

DECEMBER CASH RECEIPTS

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in December are tentatively estimated at 3.0 billion dollars, down 15 percent from November but about the same as in December 1952. Approximately half of the total, or 1.5 billion dollars was from the sale of livestock and livestock products. This was 7 percent below the previous

(Continued on Page 6)

b) Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

c/ Revised.

	0 *				
	Sales	1953		1,550 2,464 44 128 458 404 54	
	of S	1952	S	3,704 2,570 61 152 437 19	
0	For Farm ousehold Use	1953	Dollar	840 204 272 185 161	
Value	For Farm Household Use	1952	ds of	710 644 266 280 189 167	
	otion	1953	Thousands of Dollars	3,304 2,182 248 400 643 785 78	
	Production	1952		4; 414 3, 214 327 432 626 585 41	
Season's Average	Farmers	1953	Dollars	2.50 2.80 1.85 160.00 .211	
Season's	BV FI	1952	100	2,15 1,95 1,90 160,00 247 . 247	
Farm Disposition Season's Average Value	T	ō	1953		620 880 24 2, 175 1, 836 339
Disposition	Sold	1952		1,723 1,318 32 32 1,766 1,670	
Farm D	For Farm Household Use	1953	Thousands	253 300 110 1.7 880 730 150	
	For Fe Househo	1952	17	330 330 140 1.75 780 670	
	tion			873 1, 180 134 2, 5 2, 5 489	
	Unit Production			2, 053 1, 648 172 2, 746 2, 340 2, 340	
	Unit			Bu. Bu. Bu. Tons Lbs. Lbs.	
	Grop			Apples Peaches Grapes Grapes Pecans(all) Improved	

2. 11 Preliminary.

FRUIT PRODUCTION AT LOW LEVEL IN 1953 LARGE PECAN CROP N. C.

The final estimate of North Carolina's commercial apple production in 1953 is estimated at 873,000 bushels -- just 43 percent as large as the record production of 2,053,000 bushels in 1952, and 18 percent below the 10-year average production of 1,067,000 bushels. Total value of the 1953 crop is placed at \$2,182,000 -- slightly less than one-half the \$4,. 414,000 valuation placed on the 1952 production.

The 1,180,000 bushel peach crop harvested in 1953 is however, the 1953 crop received a slightly higher value than also substantially below the previous year when 1,648,000 bushels were produced. Due to substantially higher prices, in 1952. Total value for 1953 is computed at \$3,304,000 compared with \$3, 214,000 in 1952

Production of 134,000 bushels of pears in 1953 compares

The value of the 1953 crop is placed at \$248,000 compared with \$327,000 for 1952. with 172,000 bushels in 1952,

The value of the 1953 grape production is calculated at \$400,cons is just slightly below the 2,700 tons produced in 1952. A North Carolina grape crop for 1953 estimated at 2,500 000 compared with \$432,000 in 1952.

Production of 3,055,000 pounds of pecans in 1953 is greater than any previous year since 1945 when 3,080,000 pounds Returns per pound from the 1953 crop were about 3.5 cents were produced. Production in 1952 totaled 2,546,000 pounds. below returns for 1952 and the \$643,000 valuation based on 1953 production is just slightly above the \$626,000 valuation

or 1952

LOCAL MARKET POULTRY FEED-PRICE RATIOS

Poultry Feed	N.	C.	U.S.		
Price Ratio a/	Dec. 1953	Jan. 1954	Dec. 1953	Jan. 1954	
Egg-feed					
(Laying mash)	14.4	13.3	12.9	12.1	
Chicken feedb/. Broiler-feed	5.4	5. 2	5.5	5.7	
(Broiler mash). Turkey feed b/	3.9 8.9	4.7	4.5 9.1	4.7 8.7	

a/ Pounds of feed equal in value to 1
dozen eggs; 1 pound farm chickens;
pound broilers; 1 pound turkeys,
(liveweight.)
b/ Poultry Ration.

FARM WAGE BATES

Wage rates paid by North Carolina farmers were higher on January 1, 1954 than a year earlier (see table below).

The average rate per day with house increased from \$4.25 to \$4.30, an increase of 1 percent. The rate per day without board or room at \$5.00 was unchanged from the previous year.

The average hourly rate with house increased from 50 cents to 51 cents during the year. The rate per hour without board or room was unchanged at 60 cents per hour.

Farm Wage Rates, North Carolina And South Atlantic States

Area and Classification	Jan. 1 1953	Jan. 1 1954
NORTH CAROLINA	<u>Do 11</u>	ars
Per Day: With house Without board or room. Per Hour:	4. 25 5. 00	4.30 5.00
Without board or room. SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES	•60	.60
Per Day: With house Without board or room.	4. 10 4. 85	4.10
Per Hour: Without board or room,	.64	.64

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

			-	
COMMODITY	Unit	NORTH CA	ROLINA	U.S.
A District		DEC.15	JAN. 15	JAN. 15
		1953	1954	1954
		L	ollars	
CORN	Bu.	1.50	1.55	1.42
WHEAT	BU.	1.91	1.99	2.03
OATS	Bu.	.92	.95	.779
BARLEY	BU.	1.34	1.35	1.16
RYE	Bu.	2.50	2.50	1.17
SORGHUM GRAIN.	CWT.	2.60	2.60	2.29
SOYBEANS	Bu.	2.70	2.73	2.83
PEANUTS	LB.	.12	. 122	.111
COTTON	LB.	.32	.325	. 300
COTTON SEED	TON	52.00	52.00	52.00
TOBACCO 1/	LB.	. 385	.443	.483
WOOL	LB.	. 53	. 53	.521
Ho GS	CWT.	22.20	23.60	24.60
BEEF CATTLE	CWT.	10.80	11.90	16.00
CAL VES	CWT.	17.10	20.00	17.80
SHEEP	CWT.	6.00	6.60	7.11
LAMBS	CWT.	17.80	19.10	18.60
MILK COWS	HEAD	100.00	100.00	156.00
CHICKENS	LB.	.209	.247	.238
COM'L BROILERS	LB.	. 205	. 250	. 246
TURKEYS	LB.	.37	.370	.332
EGGS	Do Z.	.60	. 56 5	. 463
MILK. WHLSE. 2/.	CWT.	5.60	5.50	4.38
RETAIL3/.	QT.	.217	.217	. 208
BUTTERFAT				
IN CREAM	LB.	. 54	.53	.659
HAY, ALL BALED.	TON	32.004/	32.90	23.80
ALFALFA	TON	43.00	44.00	24.90
LESPEDEZA	TON	35.50	35.50	31.50
SOYBEAN &	-	20.00	20.00	24 50
COWPEA	TON	30.00	32.00	31.50
PEANUT VINE	TON	20.00	22.00	21.80
OTHER	TON	30.50	32.00	0015/
PO TATOES	Bu.	1.65	1.55	.6915/
SWEETPOTATOES.	Bu.	2.35	2.55	2,53
APPLES, COM'L	Bu.	3.00	3,10	3.19
LESPEDEZA SEED	CWT.	17.00	18.30	19.00
KOREAN	CWT.	16.20	17.50	
KOBE	CWT.	17.50	19.00	-
COM.&TENN.76		22.00	22.00	
SERI CEA	CWT.	23.00	23.00	

1/ Type 11-37 for U.S., 11-13 for N.C.
2/ Estimated average prices for the month
for all milk sold at wholesale to plants
and dealers.

3/ Sold by farmers directly to consumers.

4/ The all hay price is the weighted average of separate kinds, including an allowance for minor kinds.

5/ U.S. price computed by weighting State prices by estimated monthly sales instead of by production as in previous reports.

Tobacco production at 2,046 million pounds is 9 percent below the 1952 crop. The flue-cured crop is down 8 percent from 1952 but is nearly 10 percent above the 1942-51 average.

3

SMALLER NORTH CAROLINA TURKEY CROP INDICATED

North Carolina turkey growers have expressed intentions which indicate a 5% reduction in number of turkeys to be raised this year.

A crop of 870,000 turkeys was indicated as of January 1, compared with 916,000 in 1953 and 1,018,000 in 1952. If current intentions materialize, this year's crop in North Carolina will be 15% below the record number raised in 1952.

Intentions by breeds for 1954 indicated a larger percentage of the turkeys will be of the heavy breeds. Heavy breeds this year will account for 86 percent and light breeds 14 percent of the total turkeys, as compared with 70 percent and 30 percent respectively in 1953.

For the Nation, turkey growers plan to increase turkey numbers this year by 7 percent. If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised will be 59,631,000, compared with 55,-746,000 raised last year.

Growers intend to raise 45,513,000 bronze and other heavy breed turkeys this year -- 6 percent more than in 1953. They plan to raise 14,118,000 Beltsville White and other light breed birds -- 9 percent more than last year. About 24 percent of all the turkeys to be raised this year are expected to be Beltsville White and

other light breed birds, compared with 23 percent in 1953.

The present favorable turkey-feed price relationship following a fairly profitable 1953 season is the principal reason given by turkey growers for the intended increase in production.

CHICK PRODUCTION

Commercial hatcheries in North Carolina produced 5,636,000 chicks during December -- a new record high output for that month. The December hatchings were 35 percent above those for December 1952 and 141 percent above the 1947-51 December average production.

The preliminary estimate of chicks hatched in North Carolina during 1953 is also a new record high, totaling 69,453,000 chicks. This compares with the previous record high of 59,899,000 chicks hatched during 1952.

For the Nation, hatchery output of chicks during December continued at record levels. A total of 116,542,000 chicks was hatched during December -- 23 percent more than in December 1952 and 95 percent above the 1947-51 average. The demand for chicks for early flock replacement is strong. The demand for chicks for broiler chicks is spotty, due to lower broiler prices, but is above that of a year ago.

COMPARISON OF TURKEYS RAISED 1952-1953 WITH GROWERS INTENTIONS FOR 1954

	Numbe	Number Raised 1953 1/			Intended for Raising in 1954			
State and Division	Heavy Breeds	Light Breeds	Total	Heavy Breeds	Light Breeds	Total	Turkeys 1954 As % of 1953	
	Thousands							
N. C	641	275	916	750	120	870	95	
Del Md Va W. Va S. C Ga Fla S. Atl	117 410 1,512 772 761 449 136 4,798	257 82 3,213 668 241 47 45 4,828	374 492 4,725 1,440 1,002 496 181 9,626	141 426 1,897 835 822 446 116 5,433	289 71 3, 301 749 180 25 47 4,782	430 497 5,198 1,584 1,002 471 163 10,215	115 101 110 110 100 95 90 106	
U. S	42,737	13,009	55,746	45,513	14, 118	59,631	107	

HONEY PRODUCTION, 1952 & 1953

State	Number Colonies of Bees	blonies tion		Total Honey Production		
State	1953	Colony	1952	1953		
	(000)	(Pounds)	(1,000	Pounds)		
N. C	191	20	5,292	3,820		
Del	3	30	66	90		
iMd	29	27	754	783		
Va	146	21	4,228	3,066		
W. Va.	124	17	2, 413	2, 108		
S. C	56	12	928	672		
Ga	209	22	5,590	4,598		
Fla	238	76	17,025	18,088		
S. Atl.	996	33.4	36, 296	33, 225		
U. S.	5, 533	40.5	272,641*	224, 126		

^{* 1952} Revised

N. C.: HONEY PRODUCTION DOWN 28 PERCENT

Honey production in North Carolina amounted to 3.8 million pounds during 1953, 28 percent below the 5.3 million pound production of 1952 and 41 percent percent below the record high crop of 6.4 million pounds produced in 1951. The number of producing colonies during 1953 was estimated at 191,000 -- slightly higher than other recent years -- while average production per colony is placed at 20 pounds in 1953 compared with 28 in 1952 and 34 pounds during 1951.

The number of colonies lost from starvation or disease during the winter of 1952-53 was negligible, and bees were in normal health when spring arrived. However, the mid-April 1953 freeze cut back sharply on nectar supplies at a time when new broods were developing and the colonies' food needs were high. The result was starvation or weakening of many colonies which were later more subject to prevailing disease. Nectar flow from the highly desirable sourwood was quite short during 1953 -- poplar flow in the west and gallberry in the eastern counties was also short.

Producers received an estimated average price of 31.5 cents per pound for the 1953 crop compared with 31.6 cents in 1952. The 1953 honey crop was valued at \$1,203,000 compared with \$1,672,000

for the 1952 crop. Approximately 17 percent of the 1953 production, or 649,000 pounds, was still held for sale by producers as of December 15, 1953.

MOST FEED PRICES UP

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for most feed items increased during the month ended January 15. Prices paid for all mixed dairy feed and broiler growing mash were the same on both dates. However, prices paid for all other feeds were higher with soybean meal showing a 60¢ increase, per hundred, over the mid-December price.

The table below gives the average prices paid for the various feed items for North Carolina and the U.S.

Feed Prices Paid By Farmers

	N.	C.	U	. S.
Feed Per	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
Hundredweight	15 1953	15 1954	15 1953	15 1954
Mixed Dairy Feed Under 29% Protein		Dolla	ers	
All	20.00		3.94	
16% Protein		3.90	3.87	
20% Protein			4.09	
24% Protein		4.30		
29% & over		4.90	4.81	4.90
High Protein Feeds				
Linseed Meal		-	4.75	
Soybean Meal			4.78	
Cottonseed Meal		3.80		
Meat Scrap	5.30	5.50	5. 32	5.38
Grain By-products				
Bran	3.60	3.65	3.13	3.22
Middlings	3.75	3.80		
Corn Meal	4.50	4.55		
Corn Gluten	-	-	3.53	3.69
Poultry Feed				
Laying Mash		5. 20		4.83
Scratch Grain	4.45	4.50	4. 26	4.30
Broiler Growing Mash	5.30	5 20	5. 23	5. 23
Poultry Ration //		4. 26		
1041013 10001011 77 1	20 71	1. 20	00 11	0.02

^{1/} Average of prices paid for commercial feeds and prices received for grain.

NORTH CAROLINA GRAIN STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

U. S. Stocks at Record Level

Combined stocks of corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, sorghum grain and soybeans in all positions in North Carolina on January 1, 1954 totaled 48.7 million bushels.

percent above the 45 million bushels a year earlier. January 1954 holdings of each of the six food and feed crops are above last year, but the 36,021,000 bushels of corn in storage is still somewhat below recent years other than 1953 when stocks were at a very low level. Stocks of wheat, oats, barley and sorghums were at record or near record levels for January 1. The total of 1,161,000 bushels of soybeans was only 39 percent as large as 2,944,000 bushels a year earlier.

For the Nation as a whole, stocks of wheat in all positions on January 1, 1954 tops by a sixth the previous high on January 1, 1943. Stocks of corn are within

10 million bushels of the January 1, 1950 record. Stocks of oats and barley are below average.

Cash Receipts (Continued)

month but approximately the same as a year earlier. Crop receipts in December, also estimated at 1.5 billion dollars were down 25 percent from November. This decline was slightly greater than the average of the previous five years.

Total cash receipts from farm marketings in 1953 are tentatively estimated at 31.2 billion dollars on the basis of preliminary monthly data. It is subject to revision in February when more information on monthly marketings in 1953 will be available.

JANUARY 1 GRAIN STOCKS

CDOD	Off-Farm	Stocks1/	On Farm	Stocks	Total S	Stocks
CROP	January 1953	January 1954	January 1953	January 1954	January 1953	January 1954
N. CAROLINA						
Wheat Rye Corn Oats Barley Sorghum Grain Soybeans	1,141 * 1,965 359 24 70 1,760	1, 181 2 1, 955 481 86 151 398	2, 399 18 31, 441 3, 551 503 522 1, 184	2, 624 23 34, 066 5, 633 528 850 763	3,540 * 33,406 3,910 527 592 2,944	3,805 25 36,021 6,114 614 1,001 1,161
UNITED STATES						
Wheat Rye Corn Oats Barley Sorghum Grain Soybeans	704,805 5,578 403,704 72,826 65,573 30,282 142,629	908, 302 14, 748 537, 646 62, 789 69, 340 40, 571 108, 691	401, 110 3, 649 2, 154, 757 786, 560 98, 680 23, 803 83, 621	424,057 6,587 2,138,464 778,541 107,770 36,244 79,785	1, 105, 9 15 9, 227 2, 558, 461 859, 386 164, 253 54, 085 226, 250	1,332,359 21,335 2,676,110 841,330 177,110 76,815 188,476

If Includes stocks in Interior mills, Elevators and Warehouses, commercial stocks reported by Grain Division, AMS, at terminals, and those owned by Commodity Credit Corporation which are in transit to ports, in bins and other storages under C.C. control.

^{*} Unallocated to avoid disclosing individual operations.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial slaughter in North Carolina during December 1953 totaled 21.799.000 pounds live weight. This was about 1 percent above the 21,511,000 pounds slaughtered during November 1953 and slightly over 4 percent above that of December 1952. The liveweight of commercial cattle slaughter in the State during December 1953 was the highest for the month since December 1947, while calf slaughter was the highest for the month since December Commercial hog slaughter during December was the second highest for the month since records began in 1947, falling short of the December 1952 record high by nearly one and one-third million pounds.

Production of red meat in commercial slaughter plants in the United States during December 1953 totaled 2,154 million pounds. December output was 2 percent above the 2,122 million pounds produced in November 1953 but 2 percent less than the 2,198 million pounds produced in December 1952. Preliminary estimate of red meat production during the year was 23,232 million pounds which was 1,859 million

pounds or 9 percent more than in 1952. Beef production in 1953 was 29 percent more than in 1952 and veal production was up 35 percent. Lamb and mutton production was 13 percent above 1952 but pork output was 13 percent less than during 1952.

December beef production in the Nation totaled 1,092 million pounds. This was 5 percent more than in November and an increase of 27 percent over December a year earlier. Veal production in December totaled 123 million pounds -- 9 percent less than in November but 23 percent above December 1952. Pork production during December was 875 million pounds, 2 percent less than November and 26 percent under December a year earlier. Lard production totaled 208 million pounds in December which was approximately the same as November but 29 percent less than December 1952. December production of mutton and lamb was estimated at 64 million pounds. 10 percent above November and 3 percent above December 1952.

North Carolina And United States Livestock Slaughter*

		Dece	mber	ber		January-December Total			
Species	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	
	Thous	Head	Tho	us. Lbs.	Thous. Head		Thous. Lbs.		
N. C.									
Cattle Calves Sheep &	7.2	9.8 4.3	5, 486 557	7,479 801	103.4 47.7	126.1 54.0	81, 267 8, 179	98,025 9,538	
Lambs Hogs	71.0	0.1 66.0	14,820	7 13, 512	1.5 732.0	1.6 711.0	135 155,062	140 146, 255	
Total	81.4	80.2	20,863	21,799	884.6	892.7	244, 643	253,958	
u. s.	Million	Head	Million Lbs.		Million Head		Million Lbs.		
Cattle Calves Sheep &	1.7	2.2	1,588	2, 043 228	17.9 8.9	23.7	17,095 1,938	22, 151 2, 636	
Lambs Hogs	1.3	1.4 6.5	130 2,080	134 1, 525	14.0 77.7	16.0 67.0	1, 351 18, 438	1,512 15,688	
Total	12.6	11.1	3,979	3,930	118.5	118.4	38,822	41,987	

^{*} Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

FARM REPORT

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COMPARISON OF PRICES RECEIVED BY U.S. FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY		RECEIVED RMERS	PARIT COMPAR PRICE	RABLE	AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	DEC. 15 1953	JAN. 15 1954	DEC. 15 1953	JAN. 15 1954	DEC. 15 1953	JAN. 15 1954
COTTON, LB WHEAT, BU CORN, BU OATS, BU BARLEY, BU RYE, BU HOGS, CWT	0011ars .307 2.01 1.41 .767 1.15 1.20 14.80 22.80	.300 2.03 1.42 .779 1.16 1.17	. 343 2.45 1.78 .881 1.36 1.68 21.00	.347 2.48 1.80 .877 1.36 1.71 21.20	89 82 79 87 85 71	87 82 79 89 85 68 75
LAMBS, CWT CHICKENS, LB EGGS. DOZ MILK.WHLSE, CWT. 2/	17.30 .224 .485 4.58 <u>3</u> /	24.60 18.60 .238 .463 4.38 <u>4</u> /	20.20 22.80 .306 .477 <u>5/</u> 4.67	20.70 23.00 .299 .468 4.74	113 76 73 90 <u>6</u> / 90 <u>6</u> /	119 81 80 104 <u>6</u> / 87

^{1/} Effective parity prices as computed currently in month indicated using base period prices and indexes then in effect.

^{2/} Estimated average price for the month for all milk sold at wholesale to plants and dealers.

^{3/} Revised. 4/ Preliminary.

^{5/} Transitional parity, 75 percent (80 percent during 1953) of parity price computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

^{6/} Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.